IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 27, 28, and 29 and ADD new claims 31 and 32 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A plasma display panel, comprising:

a plurality of discharge electrodes arranged on an interior main surface of a front substrate, an exterior main surface thereof comprising a display surface, each of said discharge electrodes comprising a bus electrode and a transparent electrode connected to said bus electrode and extending in a longitudinal direction, opposing portions of adjacent discharge electrodes, spaced in a lateral direction, defining corresponding discharge cells; and

shielding parts extending at least in part over each discharge cell to shield ~~incident~~ light from an exterior of the front substrate, which is incident on the shielding parts, from entering the discharge cell, each shielding part formed on a corresponding said transparent electrode and disposed laterally of the corresponding bus electrode.

27. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A plasma display panel, comprising:

a plurality of discharge electrodes arranged on an interior main surface of a front substrate, an exterior main surface ~~thereof~~ of the front substrate comprising a display surface, each of said discharge electrodes comprising a bus electrode and a transparent electrode, connected to said bus electrode ~~and~~ commonly extending therewith in a longitudinal direction, ~~opposing portions of adjacent discharge electrodes, spaced in a lateral direction, defining corresponding discharge cells~~adjacent discharge electrodes having parallel, continuous edges in spaced relationship and opposing, longitudinally spaced portions of the edges being aligned with corresponding discharge cells, each discharge cell having first regions of higher, generally common luminescent intensities and second regions of lower luminescent intensities; and

shielding parts to shield ~~incident~~ light incident on the panel from an exterior of the front substrate, each shielding part being formed on a corresponding said transparent electrode in association with the corresponding discharge cell and enlarged in the lateral direction, relatively to ~~disposed lateral to~~ the corresponding bus electrode, ~~formed in correspondence to a~~ so as to

overlie the second regions ~~having low~~ of lower luminescent intensity, and having an edge ~~longitudinal~~of a configuration corresponding to a border between the first and second regions, respectively of the higher and the lower ~~outlined by areas of discharge generated light having the same~~ luminescent intensities.

28. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The plasma display panel according to claim 27, wherein said shielding parts are formed in longitudinally spaced relationship, alternating with aligned portions of a respective ~~integrally with said~~ bus electrodes, the aligned portions integrally interconnecting the spaced shielding parts.

29. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A plasma display panel, comprising:

a plurality of discharge electrodes arranged on an interior main surface of a front substrate, an exterior main surface thereof comprising a display surface, each of said discharge electrodes comprising a bus electrode and a transparent electrode connected to said bus electrode and extending in a longitudinal direction, opposing portions of adjacent discharge electrodes, spaced in a lateral direction, defining corresponding discharge cells, discharges being produced in each discharge cell generating light in a pattern of differing luminescent intensities comprising at least first and second ~~portions~~ regions of respectively relatively higher and lower luminescent intensities in each discharge cell, the first ~~portion~~regions ~~of each discharge cell~~ of substantially common ~~the~~ relatively higher luminescent intensities ~~and~~ being surrounded by the second portions of relatively lower luminescent intensities and defining a border therebetween; and

shielding parts formed of the material of the bus electrodes ~~,~~ and disposed with the respective bus electrodes on corresponding transparent electrodes ~~associated with the respective bus electrodes~~ extending in the longitudinal direction and aligned in opposed pairs with respective discharge cells, opposed edges of each pair of opposed shielding parts having configurations defining a relatively larger space therebetween corresponding to~~,~~ and thereby permitting light to exit from~~,~~ the first ~~portion~~ regions of ~~relatively higher luminescent intensities~~ each cell, and a relatively smaller space therebetween, corresponding to~~,~~ and thereby shielding incident light from an exterior of the front substrate from entering the discharge cell in the second ~~portion~~ regions~~of relatively lower luminescent intensities~~, to improve a bright room contrast ratio of the plasma display panel.

31. (NEW) A plasma display panel, comprising:

a plurality of discharge electrodes arranged on an interior main surface of a front substrate, an exterior main surface thereof comprising a display surface, each of said discharge electrodes comprising a bus electrode and a transparent electrode connected to said bus electrode and extending in a longitudinal direction, opposing portions of adjacent discharge electrodes, spaced in a lateral direction, defining corresponding discharge cells; and

plural shielding parts, spaced longitudinally along the bus electrode in alignment with respective discharge cells and of increased lateral dimensions, relatively to a lateral dimension of the corresponding bus electrode, so as to extend over corresponding portions of the respective discharge cells and thereby to shield incident light, from an exterior of the front substrate, from entering the shielded portions of the respective discharge cells.

32. (NEW) The plasma display panel according to claim 31, wherein plural said shielding parts are formed in longitudinally spaced relationship, alternating with aligned portions of a respective bus electrode, the aligned bus electrode portions integrally interconnecting respective, spaced shielding parts.